

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendrayner
Ellen Gavin
Marshall Johnson
Phyllis A. Reha
Gregory Scott

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for EAS From the
Freeborn Exchange to Alden, New Richland,
Hartland-Manchester, Albert Lea and Wells

ISSUE DATE: February 3, 2003

DOCKET NO. P-403,508,407,546, 430,
421/CP-98-1650

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND DENYING PETITION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 2, 1998, subscribers in the Freeborn exchange filed a petition for extended area service (EAS) to the exchanges of Alden, Wells, New Richland, Manchester, Hartland and Albert Lea.

On September 8, 1999, the Commission issued its ORDER PARTIALLY DENYING PETITION AND REQUIRING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES. In that Order, the Commission denied the Freeborn to Alden, Wells, New Richland and Manchester-Hartland local calling area (LCA) routes for lack of the required traffic. The Commission found that the Freeborn to the Manchester-Hartland-Albert Lea LCA met the adjacency and traffic criteria and ordered the affected companies to file the necessary cost studies and proposed EAS rate additives.

Freeborn is served by Cannon Valley Telecom, Manchester-Hartland is served by Manchester-Hartland Telephone Company and Albert Lea is served by Qwest Corporation.

The companies duly filed their cost studies and proposed rates, but the Commission did not proceed directly to establishing rates and requiring polling. Instead, in a series of Orders issued between November 1998 and May 2001, the Commission addressed a series of new issues posed by the need to adapt EAS to the competitive telecommunications market mandated by state and federal law. With these issues largely settled, the Commission met on February 19, 2002 to again consider the Freeborn EAS petition.

On March 8, 2002, the Commission issued its ORDER SETTING EAS RATE ADDITIVES AND REQUIRING POLLING. In that Order, the Commission directed polling of Freeborn customers regarding an EAS route between Freeborn and the Hartland/Manchester/Albert Lea LCA.

Between August 21 and October 11, 2002, polling of telephone subscribers in the Freeborn exchange was conducted.

The Commission met to consider this matter on October 24, 2002.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The final criterion for an EAS petition is whether there is adequate customer support for the proposed EAS route. If a majority of customers vote in favor of installing the proposed EAS, the Commission is authorized and directed to order the relevant local telephone companies to install the service. If not, the petition must be denied.

The Commission has reviewed the results of the polling of Freeborn customers and will certify the following results. With 71.8 percent participation, the results were:

Polling results for Freeborn

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Local Calling Area (LCA)	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Freeborn	Hartland/ Manchester/ Albert Lea	\$10.94	\$10.94	71.8	98	37.4	164	62.6

Since less than a majority of the Freeborn customers responding to the poll voted in favor of installing the proposed EAS route between Freeborn and the Hartland/Manchester/Albert Lea LCA, the Commission will deny this petition and direct Cannon Valley Telecom, the local telephone company serving the Freeborn exchange, to notify its customers, as set forth in more detail in the Ordering Paragraphs.

ORDER

1. The polling results for the Freeborn exchange are hereby certified as set forth above.
2. In accord with the results of that polling, the Commission hereby denies the petition for EAS between the Freeborn exchange and the Hartland/Manchester/Albert Lea LCA.
3. Within 10 days of this Order, Cannon Valley Telecom (Canon Valley or the Company) shall file a proposed customer notice for approval by Commission Staff. The notice should list the results of the polling. After approval, the Company shall serve the notice in the first possible billing cycle.

4. At the time the notices referred to in Ordering Paragraph 3 have been served, the Company shall file copies of the final notices with the Minnesota Department of Public Service and the Commission. Thereupon, the Freeborn docket (P-403,508,407,546, 430, 421/CP-98-1650) will be closed.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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